

11-5-2007

Turkey Day May Be A Wet One For The Granite State

Lori Wright
UNH Media Relations

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Recommended Citation

Wright, Lori, "Turkey Day May Be A Wet One For The Granite State" (2007). *UNH Today*. 895.
<https://scholars.unh.edu/news/895>

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Turkey Day May Be A Wet One For The Granite State

Winter Months Expected To Be Warmer And Wetter Than Normal

Contact: [Lori Wright](#)

603-862-0574

UNH Media Relations

November 5, 2007

EDITORS AND REPORTERS: NH State Climatologist Beth Hall's complete November forecast is available at http://unh.edu/news/docs/NHClimate_Nov07.pdf. Hall can be reached at 603-862-3136 and Beth.Hall@unh.edu.

DURHAM, N.H. – New Hampshire may get precipitation on Thanksgiving Day, but chances are it will be rain, not snow, according to Beth Hall, New Hampshire state climatologist at the University of New Hampshire.

Hall's November 2007 climate forecast for the Granite State calls for a 38 percent chance of precipitation in southern New Hampshire and 44 percent chance in the North Country on Thanksgiving. However, the chances of that precipitation being snow are 6 percent in the south and 11 percent in the north.

New Hampshire is forecast to have temperatures and precipitation amounts similar to the climatological averages from past years, which means the first flakes of snow will likely fly during the month.

According to the Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC), snowfalls usually are substantial by late November, coastal storms are frequent, and cloudiness is at a maximum. November snowfall averages 2 to 7 inches across southern New Hampshire near the coast, 5 to 10 inches in the central interiors of New Hampshire, and 10 to 15 inches in the North Country.

From November to January, Hall said New Hampshire has a strong probability of seeing above normal temperatures and less snow than in past years.

"The precipitation that does fall will either be as rain, or perhaps freezing rain. Without the slow melt-rate of snow, this could suggest an increased chance of flooding, especially if the ground freezes enough to discourage soil absorption," Hall said.

Derry holds the record high temperature for November at 82 degrees set on Nov. 15, 2005. The coldest recorded temperature for November was at Mount Washington on Nov. 29, 1989, when the mercury dipped to -17 degrees. And as would be expected, Mount Washington also holds the record for the most snow in a single 24-hour period in November – 17.9 inches on Nov. 5, 2001.

At UNH, Hall teaches courses on meteorology and climatology in addition to specialized courses on how and why severe weather occurs. She holds a Ph.D. in atmospheric sciences from the University of Nevada.

